

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 6, 2006

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**FILING DATE EXTENSION**  
**TELECOMMUNICATIONS GRANT AVAILABILITY**  
**Up to \$2,500,000 available per project**

**To: Community groups seeking grants to provide telecommunications infrastructure in currently unserved low-income rural areas of California.**

The Telecommunications Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has extended its deadline and is continuing to accept applications for the Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure Grants Program spanning the 2005-06 fiscal year. The new application deadline is March 15, 2006 for Phase 1 Applications.

State Legislation created the Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure Grants Program, which seeks to extend telecommunication services to portions of the state where service is unavailable. Under this program, rural and low-income communities are eligible to receive grants of up to \$2,500,000 each to assist in providing telecommunications services to areas that are currently without telephone service. The program is funded up to \$10,000,000 annually through January 1, 2008.

The California Public Utilities Commission oversees the grants program and has established an application process and eligibility criteria for community-based groups to obtain grants to provide telephone infrastructure to connect their communities to the telecommunications network. Over the past two fiscal years, we have authorized five grants for \$10,194,900 to qualified community-based groups. More information on the program for this fiscal year is available on the CPUC website at [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

We invite all interested community-based groups to learn more about this telecommunications program and apply for a grant to connect your community. In summary, the application process is divided into two stages involving first a qualifying stage and then a more detailed feasibility and costing review stage. Applicants who incur cost to provide a stage 2 feasibility study may still be eligible for reimbursement even if their application is ultimately denied.

If you receive this notice and know of a community that may qualify for a grant, please share this notice with them. For those communities currently without telephone services, it could change their world. Questions regarding the Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure Grants Program (also known as the AB 140 Implementation Project) should be addressed to Mary Jo Borak at 415 703-1879 or via email at [bor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:bor@cpuc.ca.gov).